

# **ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 1873

## **MONTHLY BULLETIN**

November 2015

[www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk](http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

### **RAJ PATEL**



Our very own Raj seen above, taking Best in Show, for his carrots in the Summer Show.

Raj wins so many prizes in our own shows and has had success when entering the RHS Harvest Festival Show in Vincent Square. He won a first with his celeriac, seconds with his red and green peppers and a third with his jungle chillies.

Well-done Raj!



*Raj's celeriac, growing on his allotment*

#### **RGS AGM**

**7.00 pm on Wednesday  
18 November 2015**

***There will be drinks and  
nibbles from 6.30 pm.  
Meeting and prize giving.***

***Then social time with drinks  
and refreshments.***

***See Notice attached to  
Bulletin***

***2014 AGM minutes will be  
emailed with this Bulletin,  
be available on the night  
and are on our website.***

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

I hope you have been able to join us for one of our bonfire events and that I will see you at our RGS Annual General Meeting and Social on Weds 16 November, at St Margaret's Church Hall. Business will start at 7pm but there will be refreshments both before, from 6.30pm, and afterwards.

Most of the current committee have agreed to stand again at the elections, but we always welcome new faces and talents so please let me know before 11 November if you would like to be nominated.

I hope to be able to give the meeting an encouraging update on our long-standing application to become a Charity. In early October I asked our President and local MP, Justine Greening, to investigate the delays we have experienced. A different representative of the Charities Commission who has been very helpful has now contacted us.

Other dates to remember this month are the Plot Inspections and the annual collection of rubbish organised by Wandsworth Council. This will be a bit later than in previous years so please don't put any rubbish out until the notices go up to do so.

**Jackie Savage**

**Jackiesavage29@gmail.com**

**07508 559134**

### **LAST YEARS CUP WINNERS:**

***Please return your cups (preferably cleaned) to the store on a Sunday morning by Sunday 15 November.***

### **BONFIRE NIGHT**

***Site 2 - Thursday 5 November at dusk***

***Site 3 – Sunday 1 November at dusk. Combined Guy Fawkes/Halloween theme.***

## **NEWS FROM THE STORE**

The sales of garlic have gone very well this year, so much so that we had to reorder to satisfy demand.

Our current offer on Kings Seeds has also proved popular. As Kings Seeds no longer take seed packets back which have just passed their 'sow by' date, we are offering one of these packets with every in date packet of seeds purchased, while stocks last.

Please note that we are withdrawing Bordeaux Mixture and Copper Fungicide from our shelves from 30 November. This is due to EU

regulations, which has banned them for amateur use as it has been found that a build up of copper in the soil may be harmful to worms and could be harmful to fish if it leaches into water. We will be looking into alternatives.

**Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary**



Georgina's photo shows Leslie's enormous potatoes. These were Picasso bought from the store this January. He says one potato plant produced 12 pounds of potatoes!

## **SEED POTATOES AND ONION SETS ON SALE IN JANUARY**

Once again we will be selling seed potatoes in the store from early January. As we buy the potatoes in bulk from a respected seed potato producer in Scotland we can sell them to you at a very competitive price. They will be sold by the kilo or individually meaning you can try a few of each if you only have a small plot.

There will be 4 varieties

**First Early: Arran Pilot.** A very early traditional 'new' potato that was popular in the 30's. Excellent yield and flavour

**Second Early: Kestrel.** A good all rounder especially for making chips and roasts. Good resistance to slug damage.

**Second Early / Salad: Charlotte.** Has a uniform shape and is great as a salad potato.

**Main crop: Picasso.** Good for roasts and mash. Good disease resistance. Stores well

See the picture of Leslie's huge Picasso potatoes.

We will also sell onion sets and shallots for spring planting, we will buy them in bulk from King's so again you can mix and match as many as you like at a good competitive price.

**Red Karmen:** A red skinned, flattened globe shape. Flesh is white with light crimson circles between the scales. A fine and sweet taste means it is good for both salads and cooking. They cannot be planted until April. These onions store well.

**Sturon:** A white fleshed onion with light gold skin. Globe shaped and

with very crisp flesh. It has long storage qualities.

**Golden Gourmet:** A shallot with excellent flavour and splitting ability. It is a very high yielding golden brown variety with high bolting resistance. These shallots store well over winter.

We will send around an email with prices as soon as we have the deliveries. The store will be closed in December and re-open on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – hopefully all the above will be available to buy on this date.

**Carol Martinez**

## **PLOT INSPECTIONS**

The next plot inspections will be in mid-November. The inspection team usually consists of at least three Committee members (the Site Manager and the two Site Secretaries), and one non-Committee member.

What the team would expect to see in November is that:

- The plot has been tidied up for the winter so there would be quite a lot of bare ground.
- Weeds are under control and particularly not likely to invade any neighbouring plots either by sending out runners or by spreading seeds.
- Surrounding paths are not obstructed and are reasonably well maintained.

Where the inspection team identifies a problem the plot holder

will be contacted. The aim is to give guidance and encouragement but if there have been problems with cultivation in the past the team will take this into account. We are mindful that there is a lengthening Waiting List and since allotments are a public facility in high demand and short supply we have a responsibility to ensure plots are well used.

Please let us know if there are any particular circumstances (e.g. illness or injury) that have prevented you from looking after your plot.

**For Site 2 (The Pleasance)**  
**please contact Georgina O'Reilly**  
**020 8789 7181 or 07468 539 476.**

**For Site 3 (Dover House Road)**  
**contact Helen Finch 07736 422 373.**

**Or email**  
[root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk).

### **Obituary**

We have heard of the sad death of Terry McGrath who has worked plot 17 with his son, Brian, for many years. Terry worked the plot methodically and very productively. We are happy to know that he was still gardening right up to his sudden death. We send our condolences to his son Brian who will carry on the good work.



## NOVEMBER RECIPE

Thanks to Gill Tamsett who saw this recipe on Delicious Magazine website.

<http://www.deliciousmagazine.co.uk/recipes/butternut-squash-soup/>

### BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP



### INGREDIENTS

3 tbsp olive oil, plus a splash extra  
2 red onions, finely chopped  
3 garlic cloves, crushed  
2 red chillies, deseeded and finely chopped  
1 butternut squash (about 1.2kg), peeled, deseeded and chopped into chunks  
1 large floury potato, cut into chunks  
A few rosemary sprigs  
1.25 litres chicken or vegetable stock, hot  
100g streaky bacon, finely chopped (optional)  
Splash of double cream  
Pumpkin seed oil or extra-virgin olive oil to drizzle

### METHOD

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and gently fry the onions for 15 minutes until soft. Add the garlic and chillies and cook for 1-2 minutes.

Add the squash, potato, rosemary sprigs and hot stock. Season well and bring to the boil, then reduce to a simmer and cook for 15-20 minutes until the squash is tender. Meanwhile, fry the bacon in a splash of oil until crisp, and then drain on kitchen paper.

Once the soup is cooked, blend with a stick blender (or blend in batches in a stand blender) and stir in the cream. Taste and adjust the seasoning, then serve with the crumbled streaky bacon scattered over and a drizzle of pumpkin seed oil or extra-virgin olive oil. The soup can be frozen in a sealed container for up to 3 months. If freezing, prepare the bacon garnish just before serving.

**Welcome to new plot holder on  
Site 3:  
Crisiano Pighi**

## **BEES**

### **East Putney Station**

The photo, on the next page shows one the seven planters situated on East Putney Station. They have been filled with bee friendly flowers and make the station look very attractive.



### **Bee Farming**



The Guardian (21.10.15) have teamed up with Rowse honey and developed a nice website to encourage us all to become us to become bee farmers. They have taken on 10 apprentices to help their expansion. It is worth a look and children will enjoy it as well.

[www.theguardian.com/rowse-bee-a-beefarmer](http://www.theguardian.com/rowse-bee-a-beefarmer)



Photo of Carol Sewell and friend dressing her onions for the Show. Well worthwhile as she won 'Best in Show' for them

Thanks to Vivian Fowler for the photo.



**Calendars for Christmas**

**2016 RSG CALENDARS**

**OUT NOW!**

Our new

"SHEDS CALENDAR 2016"

On sale in the Store

Or from Jackie (07508 559134)

All sheds shown are on our plots.

**£4 each**

## NOTICES

### RGS ADDRESS AND POST BOX

Fixed to the gate at site 2, The Pleasance. The address is:  
Roehampton Garden Society  
The Pleasance Allotments  
The Pleasance  
London SW15 5HF

### RHS CONTACTS

Committee Chair: Jackie Savage,  
Site 2 Allotment Secretary:  
Georgina O'Reilly;  
Site 3 Allotment Secretary: Helen Finch.  
Site Manager: Shirley Gillbe;

### BASIC RULES FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL COHESION ON OUR ALLOTMENT SITES

- Respect the rights and belongings of other plot holders.
- No dogs without leads.
- No unsupervised children.
- Lock the gate behind you.
- Dispose of your own rubbish.
- No structures to be erected or trees to be planted without permission of your Site Secretary.

If you think someone is breaking the rules contact a committee member or me, rather than confront another plot holder.  
[jackiesavage29@gmail.com](mailto:jackiesavage29@gmail.com) or 07508 559134

Comments, questions for Chair and/or Committee via website:  
[root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

### SECURITY

*If you see someone trespassing or causing damage on Sites or in an emergency phone 999 or text phone 18000.*

### Dates for Your Diary

**AGM: 18 November 2015**

**2016 dates:**

**Summer Show 2016: 11 June**

**Autumn Show 2016: 10**

**September**

**AGM 2016: 23 November**

### NEW DAWN GARDENS

Artan Deliallisi, one of our plot holders, offers regular or casual maintenance for gardens. He will repair or build fences, gates, sheds, paving, walls and arches.  
07411 288485  
[artandeliallisi@gmail.com](mailto:artandeliallisi@gmail.com)

### DISCOUNTS

**10% discount when you show your RGS membership card at: Adrian Hall Garden Centre in Sheen; Capital Gardens, opposite Wandsworth Prison**

**THE CARTRIDGE PEOPLE, Give 10% of the cost of your order back to the Society when you buy from:**

[www.cartridgepeople.com/RaisingMoneyFor/Roehampton-GS](http://www.cartridgepeople.com/RaisingMoneyFor/Roehampton-GS)

### YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH

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**THE CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION TOOL SHED**

*Mend and re-furbished old  
garden tools for schools*

[www.conservaionfoundation.co.uk](http://www.conservaionfoundation.co.uk)

***New volunteers to help are  
always welcome. Please  
contact Carol Martinez at  
the Store or leave a  
message at:***

[root@roehamptonallotment  
s.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotment.s.co.uk)

**AUSTIN MOWERS**

*Repairs and sells reconditioned  
mowers and sharpen shears.*

**300 Garratt Lane, SW18 4EH  
020 8874 4206**

[www.austinmowers.com](http://www.austinmowers.com)  
[austinmowers@aol.com](mailto:austinmowers@aol.com)

**FREE HORSE MANURE**

Ridgway Stables in Wimbledon  
(next to Swan Pub on the corner of  
Hillside and Ridgway) have a  
constant supply of free horse  
manure available.

The manure is already bagged and  
gardeners are welcome to collect  
between 8am -5pm, 7 days a week.

They can also deliver manure in  
larger loads (approx 60 bags) to  
allotments in the area. This is done  
on Saturdays.

Please call Julia on 020 8946 7400  
if you are interested.

**CAPITAL GROWTH**

Capital Growth is the largest food  
growing network in London. It was  
set up initially as a partnership  
initiative between London Food  
Link, the Mayor of London, and the  
Local Food Fund and helped create  
2012 new community food-growing  
spaces across London by the end  
of 2012.

You may be interested in their  
courses and voluntary work  
opportunities. See what they are  
doing and sign up for their  
newsletter

at [www.capitalgrowth.org](http://www.capitalgrowth.org)

**NEXT BULLETIN: Sunday 6  
December 2015**

**By email, in store and on both  
sites.**

**Copy for next edition to Pat Dark  
(020 8789 7568, 27 St Margaret's  
Crescent, Putney, London SW15  
6HL or by email:**

[Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk) by 26  
November 2015

**THE STORE**

***Open on Sunday mornings  
between 10 -12.00 noon,  
also the café serving tea,  
coffee and homemade cake.***

[www.vegetableseeds.com](http://www.vegetableseeds.com)